

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:58pm. Selectmen present were James McIlroy and Wes Moore. Others present were Road Agent Brian Knipstein, Town Planner Reuben Hull, Brian Connor, Karen Lynch, Larry Arend, and Mike Woodworth.

Brian Knipstein and Reuben Hull walked the High Rock Lane site because of the water runoff issue. It was determined that the road was not been built to the original specifications, but is actually better. The water runoff from the outer portion of the road runs into the Town's right of way and the inner portion of the road runs into the center of the cul-de-sac.

They feel there are a couple of reasons for the water drainage problem. One is that the Connor's basement was built two feet too low and the sump pump directs the flow of water to the front corner of his property. The other is that the water runoff from the street collects in the same corner of his property. A driveway culvert and swale do not exist on the Labrie property which would bring the water runoff to the area designated. The culvert and swale are shown on the approved septic design for the Labrie property.

Mr. Connor asked if an underground storm drain could be installed to continue the drainage around to the easement area. Reuben stated that even if the Town re-directs the water, the water will still collect because of his foundation drains. It was suggested that Mr. Connor have his foundation drain to the rear of his property using a pump if necessary to move the water.

Mr. Connor then asked if he could put a drainage pipe from the front of his property to the rear of his property. This would eliminate the need for the Town to put in a culvert and swale on the Town's right of way in front of the Labrie property which would disturb their landscaping. Mr. Connor is willing to meet halfway with the Town for this solution. The Town would need an easement in order to maintain the drainage pipe. Mr. Connor is willing to give an easement.

Another solution would be for a drain to run from the corner of the house to the back area of the property. This would involve digging up the driveway. Most likely ledge is in the area and could make the cost prohibitive. This would solve the water in the basement issue only.

One other solution to consider would be to install a drain under the roadway to the present cul-de-sac. The level of the cul-de-sac would have to be lowered and the roadway would have to be dug up. The utilities are underground in this area which would make things more complicated.

The Selectmen advised Mr. Connor that they need more time to look into a solution and would get back to him at a later date.

Reuben gave the Selectmen an update on the water issue on Piscassic Road. He said that Ray Wenniger of the Rockingham County Conservation District reviewed the site and made the following notes – the damage to the rock wall is old and not from the recent rains, the State has cleaned out the swale once and may have to clean it out a couple more times to maintain it. Water is now flowing as designed and not standing still.

Brian Knipstein is getting together with a tree expert with regard to the pine trees next to the Town Hall. Brian asked if the Town actually owns the trees. He suggested that markers may be on the corners of the lot indicating the lot line. We should not pay to have the trees taken down if the Town does not own them. Brian also pointed out that the barn was built long after the pine trees were established. In any event, Brian will report back to the Selectmen with the tree experts opinion and prices.

Brian gave an estimate to the Selectmen for ADA compliant parking in front of the Town Hall, the ramps by the Town Office and Police Station, and the sidewalk from the Country Store to the Railroad Bridge. The estimate does not include the ramp into the Town Hall. Nancy was asked to have Brian get an estimate for this work (to be done the same time as the other work on the estimate).

Brian mentioned that the Town needs a sidewalk from the Newfields Elementary School to Old Lee Road. Reuben is still trying to get a grant for this portion of the sidewalk paving.

The Selectmen decided to wait for a full board to be in attendance before voting on this expenditure.

The Library Trustees accepted the invitation to attend a Selectmen's Meeting. Larry Arend stated that he spoke with the Auditor on the telephone about the audit concerns. The recommendations from the Auditor were put into place at the Library Trustees meeting in May. Larry is now the president of the Trustees and Karen Lynch is the treasurer. The invoices will be paid on a timely basis, copies of all invoices will be kept, and bank deposits will be made in a timely manner by Deborah Chaze. All invoices will be marked approved by Deborah Chaze.

Larry had called the Attorney General's Office to find out if it was legal for the Town to withhold funds from the Library. He was told it is against the law to withhold funds if all monetary issues were resolved and stated the Library Trustees did not have to attend a Selectmen's Meeting.

The Selectmen explained that they did not receive a response from the Library Trustees regarding concerns from the audit and therefore did not feel comfortable signing any more checks payable to the Library until the issues were discussed

and resolved. Wes and James are now satisfied with the changes implemented by the Trustees and have agreed to sign checks again. They commended the Library Trustees for a job well done.

The Library Trustees asked that Mike Woodworth be appointed to the Trustee position vacated by Rob MacPherson. The Selectmen agreed to appoint Mike until the March 2007 election. Mike will come into the Town Office to sign the appointment letter and be sworn into office by the Town Clerk.

The Selectmen were asked to sign a check for the Welfare Department. Wes asked Nancy to have Janet call him to explain why the check is being written. If the check needs to be signed before next week's meeting, Wes will go to the Town Office and do so.

The correspondence from Fran Lane was read with regard to the Noise Complaint.

A Current Use Application from the Rockingham Land Trust was reviewed. James made a motion to accept the Current Use Application for the balance of the Piscassic Greenway. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Wes advised that the Newfields Fire Department will clean the gutters and trim the tree limbs behind the Town Office. This will be done as a training event.

James made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 23rd Selectmen's Meeting. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. The minutes of the May 16th meeting will be reviewed and approved when Janet returns.

Wes got the measurements required for the salt shed easement. Both corners of the building are 111 feet from the fence. Nancy was asked to get a copy of the minutes from a prior meeting regarding the easement and to put it on next week's Agenda.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer

